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Subject: FW: R9 NEPA Hot Projects - July 2013
Date: Thursday, July 11, 2013 9:40:28 AM
Attachments: [ERO Hot Projects - July 2013 final.pdf](#)
[Workload Report 7.3.2013.xlsx](#)

EPA Region 9 currently has 36 environmental review related documents on our 7/3/13 workload report. These include NOI scoping comments, Draft and Final EISs, Administrative Draft and Final EISs, several EAs, and early integration NEPA/404 checkpoint review packages.

In June 2013, ERO commented on 3 Draft EISs. They were rated as follows:

LO:

Tehachapi Renewable Transmission, 2nd draft Supplement, Kern and Los Angeles Counties, CA

EC-2:

East Bay Hills Hazardous Fire Risk Reduction, Alameda, Contra Costa Counties, CA

EO-2

Placer Vineyards Project, Placer County, CA

Attached is Region 9's July 2013 Hot Projects Report for tracking and monitoring upcoming NEPA/309 reviews that might be controversial. In particular, please note current activity on the following projects:

South Mountain Freeway (Loop 202) DEIS under review

Region 9 is reviewing the Draft EIS for the highly controversial South Mountain Freeway project in Phoenix. EPA has previously responded to two congressional inquiries and three concerned citizens letters with regard to Air Toxics impacts. The Federal Highway Administration had previously declined to perform any health-based mobile source air toxics analysis as they felt it was not appropriate for the proposed project, despite public concern. OTAQ has identified inadequate air quality analysis. Comments on the DEIS are due July 24.

Rosemont Preliminary Administrative FEIS under review

The DEIS for the Rosemont Mine project in Arizona was rated EU-3. The Forest Service is seeking comments from cooperating agencies on the Preliminary Administrative Final EIS (PAFEIS) by 7/31/13, and has posted the document on the web for public review, but is not accepting public comments at this time. Forest Service has indicated that it will decide whether to issue the document as a Supplemental DEIS for public review and comment or as an FEIS after receiving our comments on the PAFEIS.

Hollister Mine FEISs under review

The DEIS for the Hollister Mine project in Nevada was rated EO-3. Based on our review so far, the FEIS appears to be largely unresponsive to our comments on the DEIS. Our comments on the FEIS are due to the Bureau of Land Management on 8/5/13.

Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) Admin DEIS comments sent

On July 3, 2013, Region 9 sent comments via email on the Second Consultant Administrative Draft EIS of the BDCP. Our comment letter and attached table highlighted key concerns including adverse impacts to water quality, aquatic species

and scientific uncertainty, lack of comprehensive alternatives analysis, and impacts on fish populations. Other lead fish agencies and cooperating agencies are iterating similar concerns to the Department of Water Resources and its consultants. EPA will continue to work with the interagency federal team to address concerns prior to the release of the public DEIS in October.

San Francisco Downtown Ferry Terminal – White House Priority Project

Region 9 is currently reviewing this project. Comments are due to the Federal Transit Administration on 7/30/13.

Transwest Express Transmission Line DEIS under review - White House Priority Project

Region 8 is the review lead for this White House priority project that is being tracked by the Transmission Rapid Response Team. Comments are due to the Bureau of Land Management and Western Power Administration by 9/25/13.

SunZia Southwest Transmission Project FEIS under review – White House Priority Project

Region 6 is the review lead and Region 9 will submit any comments that we have to Region 6 in early July. Comments are due to Bureau of Land Management by 7/15/13.

RES Americas Moapa Solar Energy Project – White House Priority Project

Region 9 sent our comments on the ADEIS to BIA on 7/3/13 and will participate in a cooperating agency call on 7/15/13 to discuss all comments received on the document.

Mohave Wind Project FEIS - White House Priority Project

Region 9 sent comments to the Bureau of Land Management on the FEIS for this White House priority project on 6/17/13. The Record of Decision was signed by Bureau of Land Management on 6/28/13.

If you would like more information on these projects, please contact me (415-972-3144), or have your staff contact Kathleen Goforth, Manager of Region 9's Environmental Review Office (415-972-3521).

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